

WORKING TO IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

About Watershed Districts

In 1953, Congress approved the federal Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. The act provided financial assistance to local agencies responsible for the management of secondary watersheds. The Minnesota Legislature approved the Watershed Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D, in 1955. This act allows the establishment of Watershed Districts upon a petition to the Board of Water and Soil Resources by either citizens or local governmental units.

As the Watershed Act was being developed, it was decided that Watershed Districts should be run by appointed managers so that they would be able to make tough decisions without worrying about political consequences. However, land use zoning powers would still remain with elected city and county officials.

About Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District

The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District is a special purpose unit of government that was established in April 2005. The District exists for the protection and preservation of water quality in the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed. The District consists of a board of five Managers from three of the four counties in the watershed. Because only a very small portion of the watershed lies in Pope County, there is no board member from that county. Board members live in the District and are appointed by County Commissioners and serve three year terms.

Location

The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed drains a 271 square mile area. The river begins in Stearns County in the Belgrade area and flows southward through north central Kandiyohi County. As the

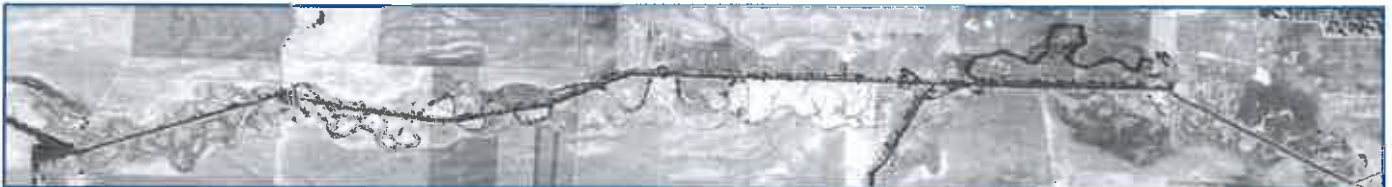
river flows south it passes through the City of New London and enters Green Lake in Spicer. After the river outlets from Green Lake, it flows eastward. Water from the City of Atwater and Diamond Lake enter the Middle Fork Crow River just before it crosses the Meeker County line. The river joins the North Fork Crow River just east of Manannah. The North Fork Crow River eventually enters the Mississippi near Dayton.



Funding

Base funding for the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District comes from an annual levy of \$250,000 assessed among each property owner in the watershed. We also actively pursue grant opportunities to expand our efforts without increasing costs to the property owners in the District.

The Board of Managers typically meet on the first Tuesday evening of the month (except holidays or election days). Those who are interested in attending board meetings are encouraged to contact District staff to confirm the meeting date and time. The public are invited to attend meetings and there is an opportunity to provide a brief address to the board in an open forum at the end of each meeting. However, this is a listening session and the board will not normally act on issues presented at an open forum.



AREAL VIEW OF MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER 1906 CHANNELIZATION